

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. through 16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a polymeric material tube associated with at least one optical fibre accommodated therein, which comprises the following steps:

- a) feeding said at least one optical fibre along a path to an extruder;
- b) extruding polymeric material around said optical fibre to form said tube;
and
- (c) cooling the tube to a predetermined final temperature by the following steps comprising:
 - d) applying a first traction force to the tube containing said optical fibre in a first section of an extrusion line;
 - e) applying a second traction force to said tube in a second section of said extrusion line, with substantial lack of congruence between said fibre and said tube, said second traction force being greater than said first traction force; and

- (f) applying a third traction force to said tube in a third section of said extrusion line, said third traction force being less than said second traction force; wherein
the tube temperature during the step in which said second traction force is applied undergoes a limited variation.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein said second traction force is applied at a tube temperature at which the polymeric material has a modulus of elasticity that is less than approximately 2000 Mpa.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 18, wherein, at the tube temperature at which said second traction force is applied, the polymeric material has a modulus of elasticity that is between approximately 100 Mpa and approximately 2000 Mpa.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 19, wherein at the tube temperature at which said second traction force is applied, the polymeric material has a modulus of elasticity that is between approximately 300 Mpa and approximately 1500 Mpa.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein said final temperature is less than approximately 40°C.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 21 , wherein said final temperature is approximately 20°C.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the temperature variation in the length of tube subjected to said second traction force is less than approximately 10% the total thermal gap undergone by the tube along the extrusion line.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the temperature variation in the length of tube subjected to said second traction force is less than approximately 20°C.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the temperature variation in the length of tube subjected to said second traction force is less than approximately 10°C.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17 , wherein said second traction force is predetermined so as to cause a stretching of at least 1% when the polymeric material of the tube is polybutyleneterephthalate (PBT).

27. through 31. (Canceled)